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SURFACE CURRENTS, SOUTHEAST INDIAN OCEAN INCLUDING THE GREAT AU-ETC(U)
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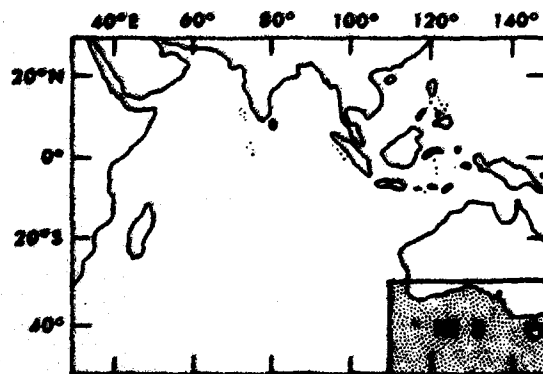
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NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE

SURFACE CURRENTS

SOUTHEAST INDIAN OCEAN IN THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN BAY



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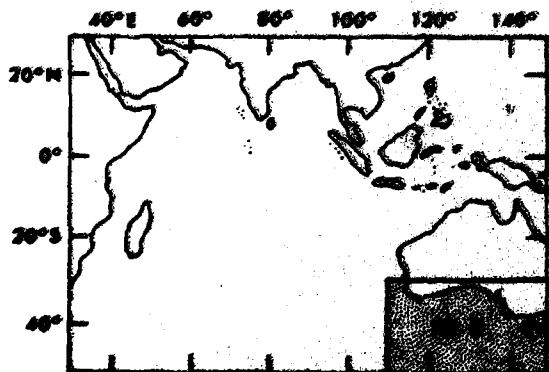
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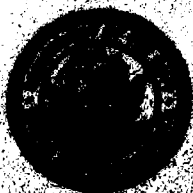
EAST INDIAN OCEAN INCLUDING
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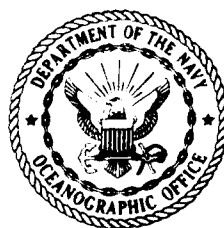
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**SOUTHEAST INDIAN OCEAN INCLUDING
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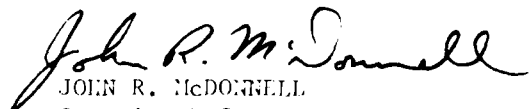
Messrs. Raymond J. Beauchesne* and William E. Boisvert made major contributions to this atlas.

*Mr. Beauchesne presently is employed by the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

FOREWORD

THIS ATLAS, ONE IN A SERIES OF 43 REGIONAL SURFACE CURRENT ATLASES, IS PRODUCED TO FULFILL A NEED OF NAVY PLANNING STAFFS AND THE SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES FOR THE LATEST AVAILABLE OCEAN SURFACE CURRENT DATA. THESE ATLASES ADD TO THE WEALTH OF NAUTICAL INFORMATION UPON WHICH OPERATIONAL PLANNING, NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY, AND SHIPPING ECONOMY DEPEND. RAPID PRODUCTION AND WIDE DISSEMINATION OF THIS ATLAS ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE LATEST COMPUTER TECHNIQUES.

THE CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF SURFACE CURRENT DATA RECEIVED OVER THE YEARS IS MADE POSSIBLE LARGELY BY THE MORE THOROUGH REPORTS OF VOLUNTARY OBSERVERS IN RECENT YEARS. THE DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY, THE OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE, AND THE USER OF THE ATLASES RELY ON THE PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS OF THE MAN WHO HAS "BEEN THERE." MARINERS, IN REPORTING THEIR OBSERVATIONS, RENDER A SERVICE NOT ONLY TO THEMSELVES BUT ALSO TO ALL "WHO GO DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS." WITH THE ADVENT OF NUCLEAR POWER, ELECTRONIC NAVIGATION AIDS, AND 300,000-TON SHIPS, UP-TO-DATE, RAPIDLY DISSEMINATED ENVIRONMENTAL AND NAVIGATIONAL INFORMATION HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT.


JOHN R. McDONNELL
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commander

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FOREWORD

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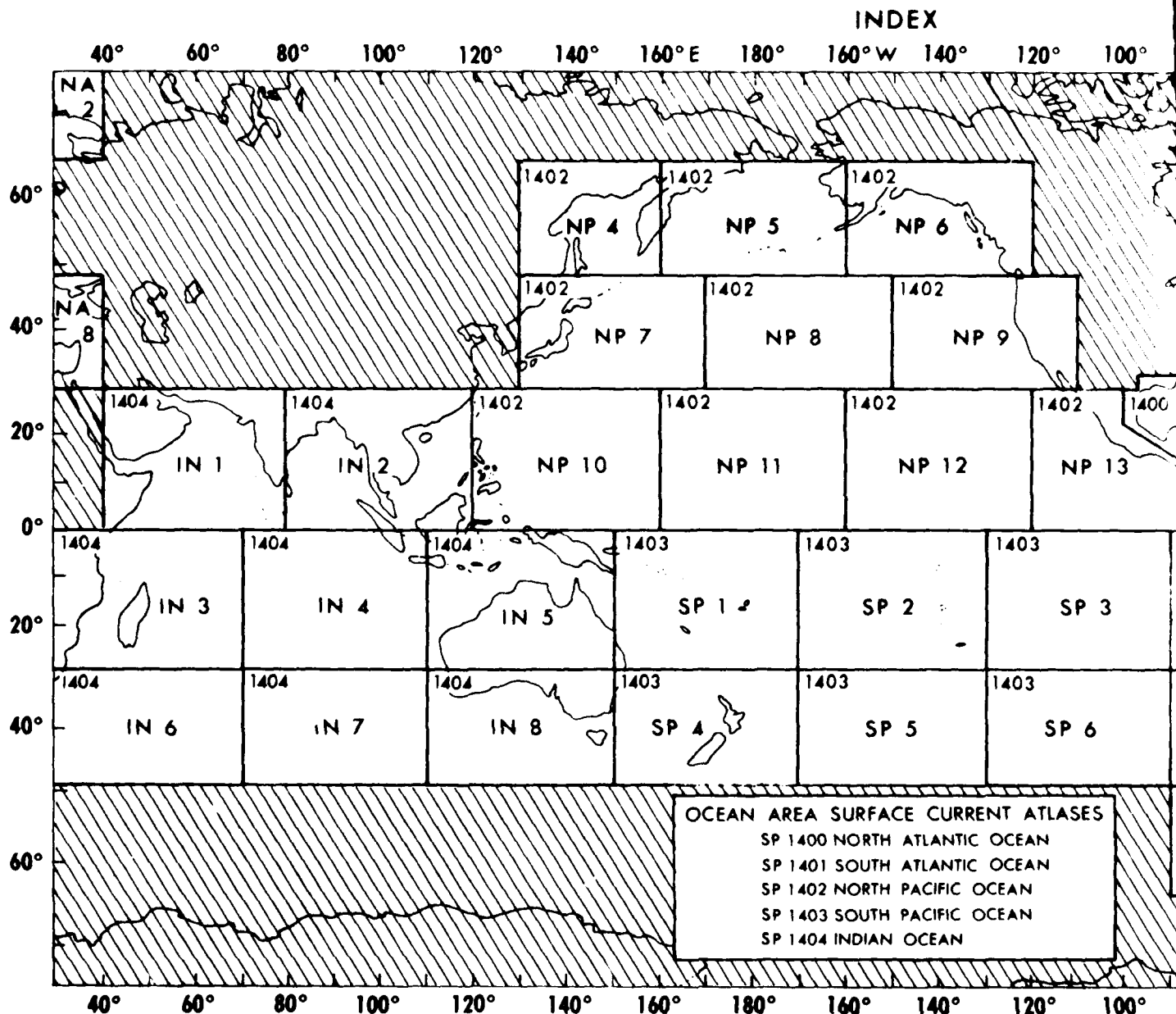
INVOLVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF SURFACE CURRENT DATA MADE POSSIBLE LARGELY BY THE MORE THOROUGH REPORTS RECENT YEARS. THE DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY, THE PRINCIPAL USER OF THE ATLASES RELY ON THE PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS "BEEN THERE." MARINERS, IN REPORTING THEIR DATA NOT ONLY TO THEMSELVES BUT ALSO TO ALL "WHO NEED IT." WITH THE ADVENT OF NUCLEAR POWER, ELECTRONIC REMOTE SENSING, UP-TO-DATE, RAPIDLY DISSEMINATED OCEANOGRAPHIC INFORMATION HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT.

John R. McDonnell
JOHN R. McDONNELL
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commander

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RECENT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DATA FILE ASSURE THE INCORPORATION OF THE LATEST, HIGHER QUALITY SURFACE CURRENT DATA AVAILABLE. THE FILE NOW CONTAINS MORE THAN 4,000,000 OBSERVATIONS AND A GENERAL UPDATE OF THE FILE WILL BE MADE



SURFACE CURRENT ATLASES

THESE GRAPHS WERE MANUALLY
 THESE NEW ATLASES
 (MAPS SHOWN BELOW)
 OF THE PHILIPPINES.

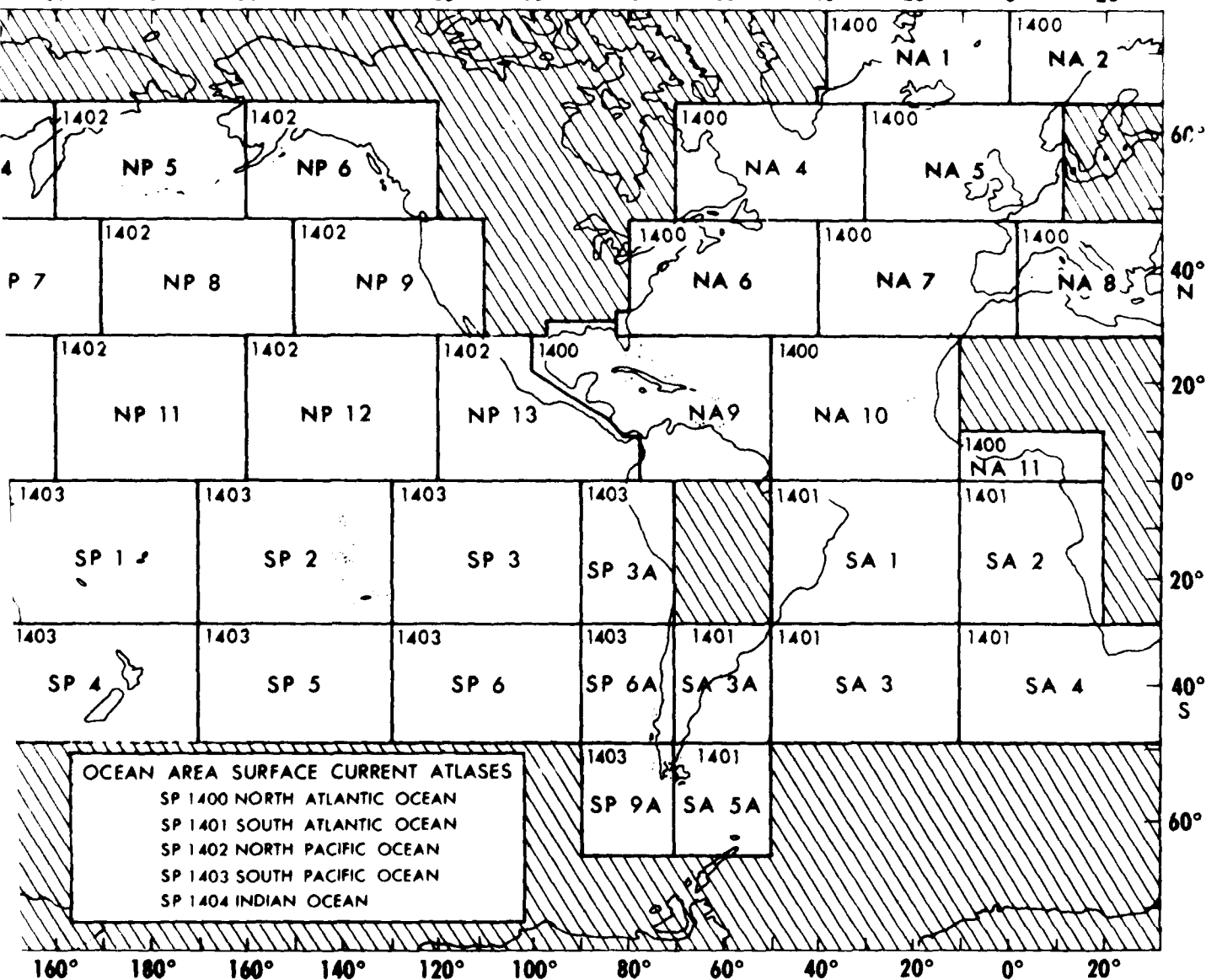
ATTEMPTS TO NEW DATA WARRANTED TO BE OF HIGH QUALITY.

THESE GRAPHS MAY NOT BE TRULY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ACTUAL SITUATION IN
 AREAS OF THE NORTH SEA, PERSIAN GULF, GULF OF THAILAND, AND YELLOW SEA WHERE
 CURRENTS ARE STRONGLY TIDAL. FOR SUCH AREAS, OTHER WORK IS BEING DONE.
 PREDICTABLE HOURLY CHANGES OF TIDAL CURRENTS SHOULD BE CONSULTED.

ONE OF THE LATEST
 CONTAINS MORE
 WILL BE MADE

INDEX

160°E 180° 160°W 140° 120° 100° 80° 60° 40° 20° 0° 20°



Introduction

The Surface Current Data File, from which these atlases are derived, consists primarily of over four million ship set and drift observations. These data were collected by the Netherlands, Japan, Britain, France, and the United States. The file is supplemented by several thousand Geomagnetic Electromagnetograph (GEM) observations, mostly Japanese. The file spans the period from the early 1850's to the present. The earliest observations were collected by the Netherlands and Great Britain; those of the 1960's through the present are primarily United States data.

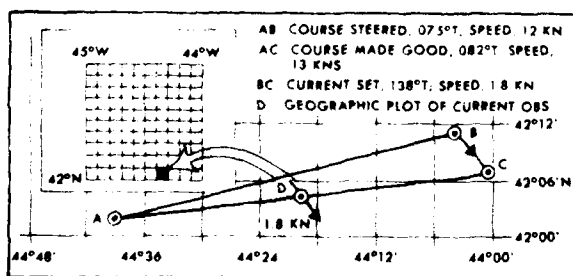
General Quality

The quality of this data file is considered high for this type of derived value. The data have been carefully screened for duplication; observations taken under adverse conditions (i.e. high winds and waves, time between observations greater than 12 hours) have been eliminated when warranted. Consideration was given to the reliability of the observer; doubtful shipboard computations of set and drift were edited, and observations with erroneous locations (mostly observations on land) have been eliminated. The accepted data are considered most useful when used collectively as in summaries where a number of observations show trends.

General Observation Technique

The set (direction) and drift (speed) are computed by the navigator from the difference between the dead reckoning (DR) position and the position determined by any type of navigational fix. The drift can be determined along any straight line track and includes all factors which cause changes in the DR position. When a fix is obtained, the current set (direction) is FROM the DR position TO the fix; the drift (speed) is equal to the distance in nautical miles between the DR and the fix, divided by the number of hours since the last fix. For successive observations, the TO POSITION of one observation becomes the FROM POSITION of the next observation.

Because the influence of current may vary along a ship's track, the MEAN POSITION of the track is assigned as the geographic location of the current observation. An example of a current computation is shown in the figure below.

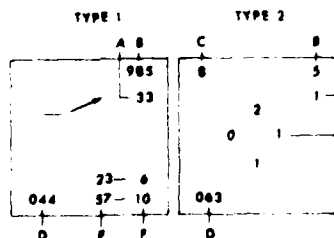


EXAMPLE OF A SURFACE CURRENT (SHIP'S DRIFT) OBSERVATION

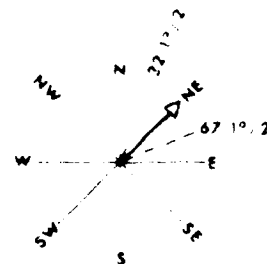
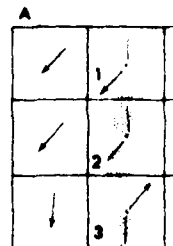
Data Presentation

The following legend shows two types of surface current presentations by 1° quadrangle, type 1 with 12 or more observations and type 2 with fewer than 12 observations. Where there are 11 or fewer observations within a 1° quadrangle, the total number of observations is shown within the 90° quadrant containing the observations.

LEGEND



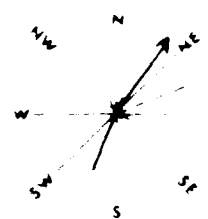
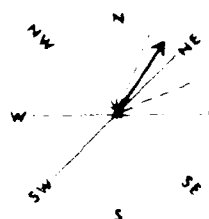
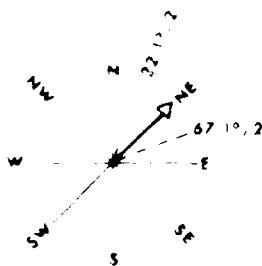
- A NUMBER OF CALMS (INCLUDED IN TOTAL OBSERVATIONS).
- B TOTAL OBSERVATIONS (999 ALSO USED FOR 1000 OR MORE OBSERVATIONS).
- C MEAN SPEED (0.8 KNOT) FOR ALL OBSERVATIONS.
- D VECTOR RESULTANT DIRECTION (°T) FOR ALL OBSERVATIONS.
- E PERCENT FREQUENCIES (57% PRIMARY DIRECTION, 23% SECONDARY DIRECTION).
- F MEAN SPEEDS (1.0 KNOT PRIMARY DIRECTION, 0.6 KNOT SECONDARY DIRECTION).
- G NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS BY QUADRANT.



- (1) Persistent Current - 80 percent or more of all observations fall within a 45° sector of the 8-point compass.

- (4) Bizonal Flow - Practically all observations are concentrated in opposite pairs of 45° sectors, and one pair contains at least 80 percent as many observations as the opposite pair. This generally indicates variability that occurs in zones of entrainment between opposing currents (see examples A and B, quadrangles 1, 2, and 3).

If there are 17 or more observations in a 45° quadrangle, the surface current is said to have a "prevailing" direction as follows:

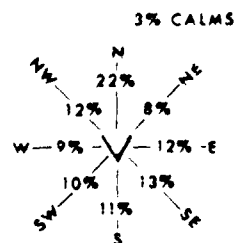
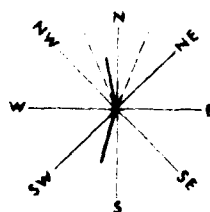


1. Prevailing Current - 60 percent or more of all observations fall within a 45° sector of the August compass.

2. Prevailing Current - 40 percent or more of all observations fall within two adjacent 45° sectors.

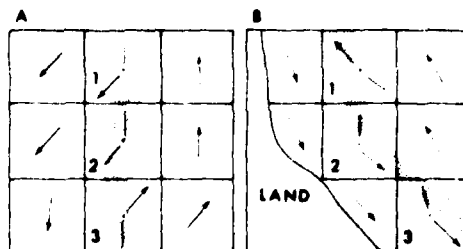
3. Primary Current with Secondary Direction - 40 percent or more of all observations fall within three adjacent 45° sectors.

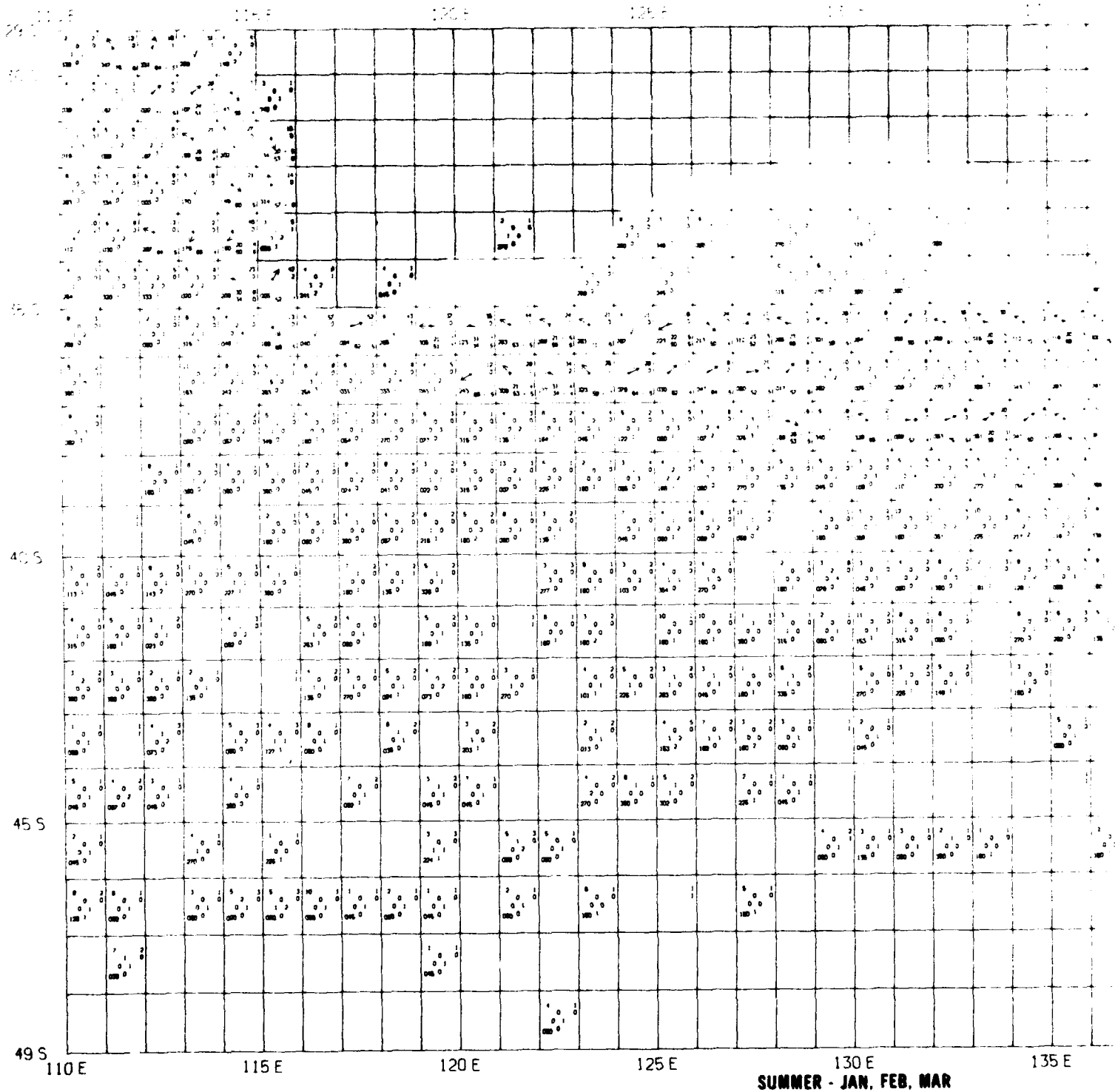
4. Secondary Direction - 20 percent or more of all observations fall within a 45° sector, and the two resultant vector directions are separated by more than 90°.



(4) Bifacial Flow - Practically all observations are concentrated in opposite pairs of 45° sectors, and one pair contains at least 90 percent as many observations as the opposite pair. This generally indicates variability that occurs in zones of entrainment between opposing currents (see examples A and B, quadrangles 1, 2, and 3).

(5) Variable Current - The 45° sector with most observations has less than 25 percent of all observations; direction is indeterminate.





125 E

130 E

135 E

140 E

145 E

150 E

20

30

40 S

45 S

49 S

125 E

130 E

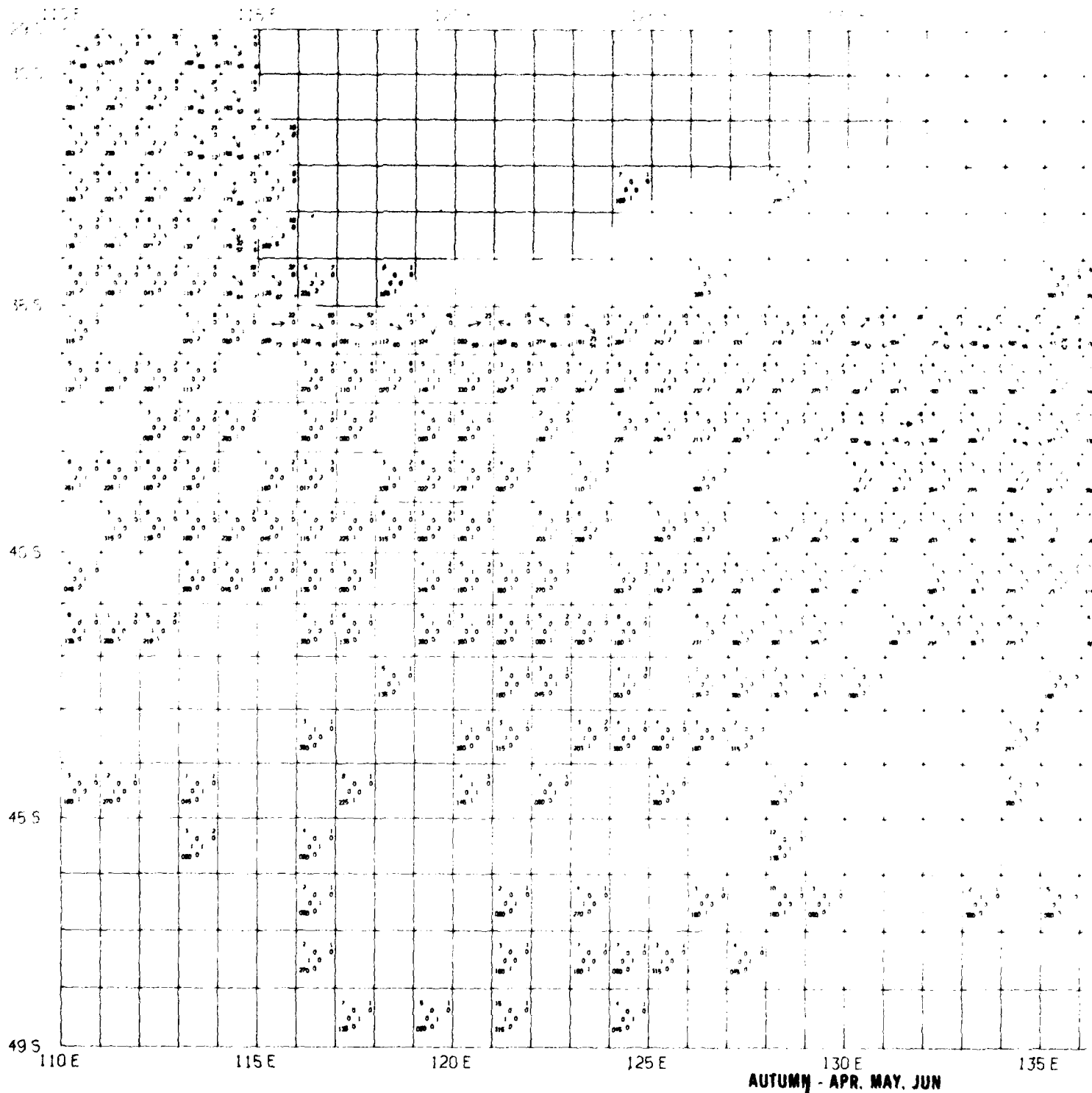
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140 E

145 E

150 E

SUMMER - JAN, FEB, MAR





125 E

130 E

135 E

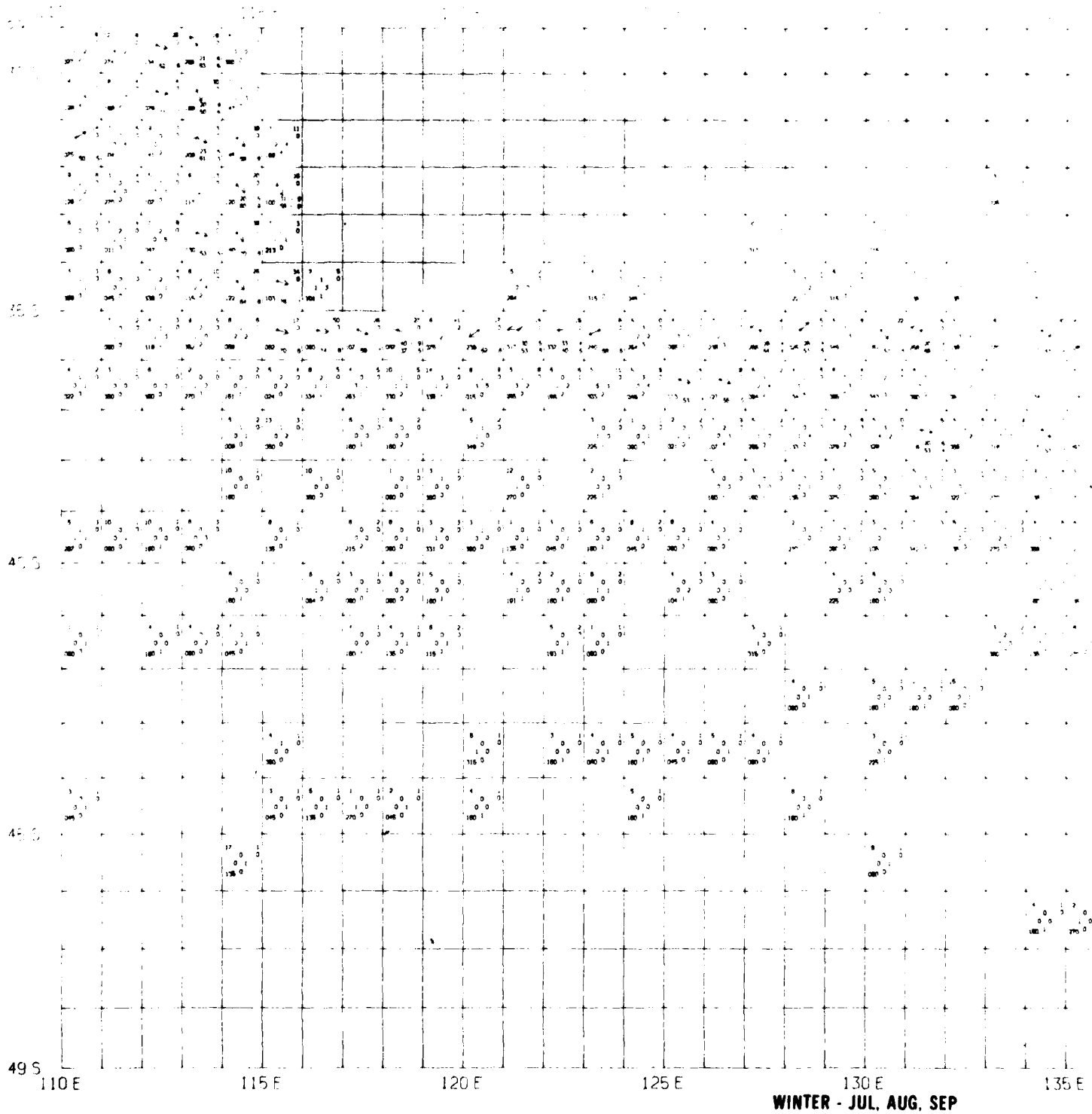
140 E

145 E

150 E

49 S

AUTUMN - APR. MAY, JUN



WINTER - JUL, AUG, SEP

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150 E

40 S

45 S

49 S

125 E

130 E

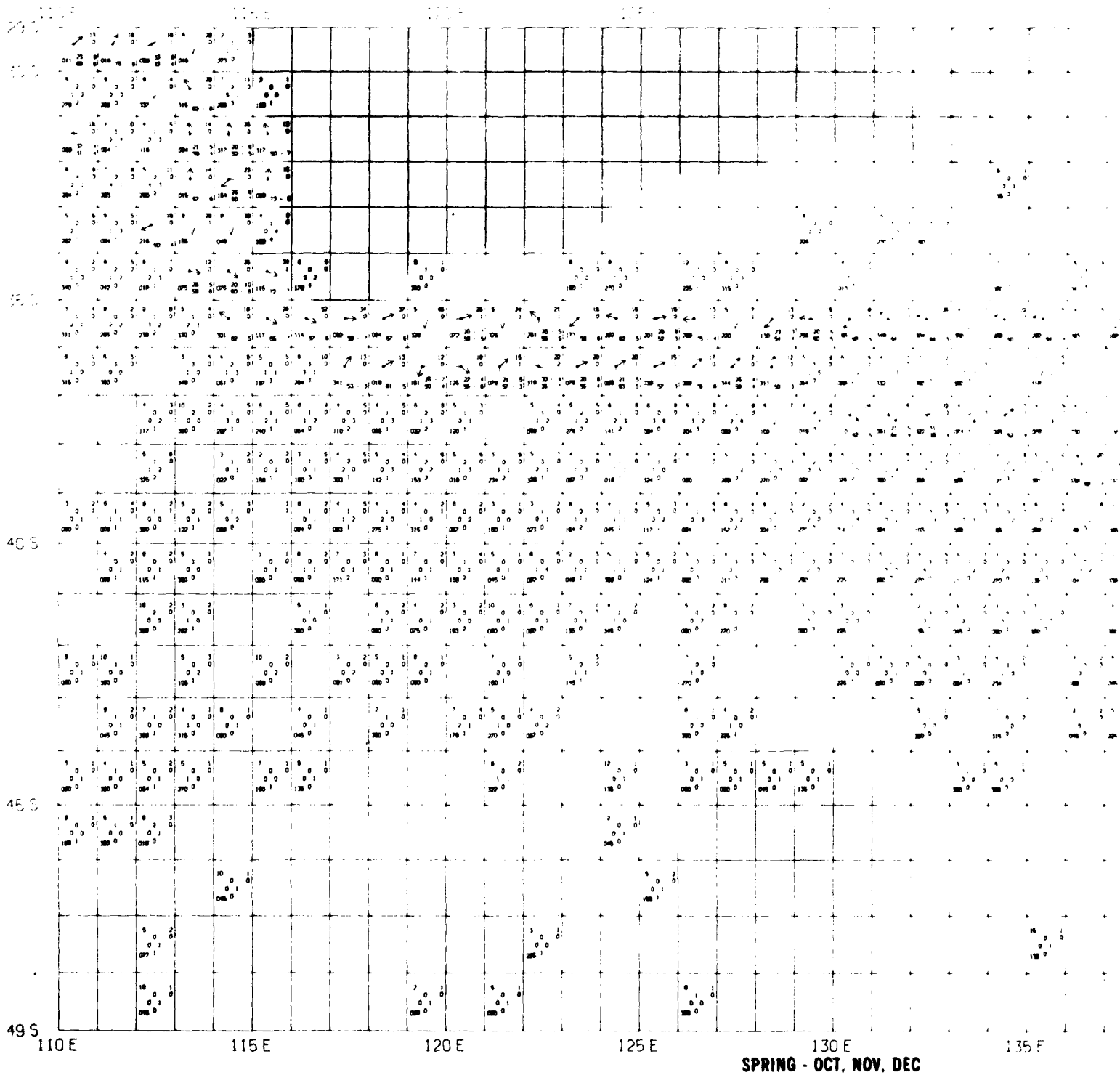
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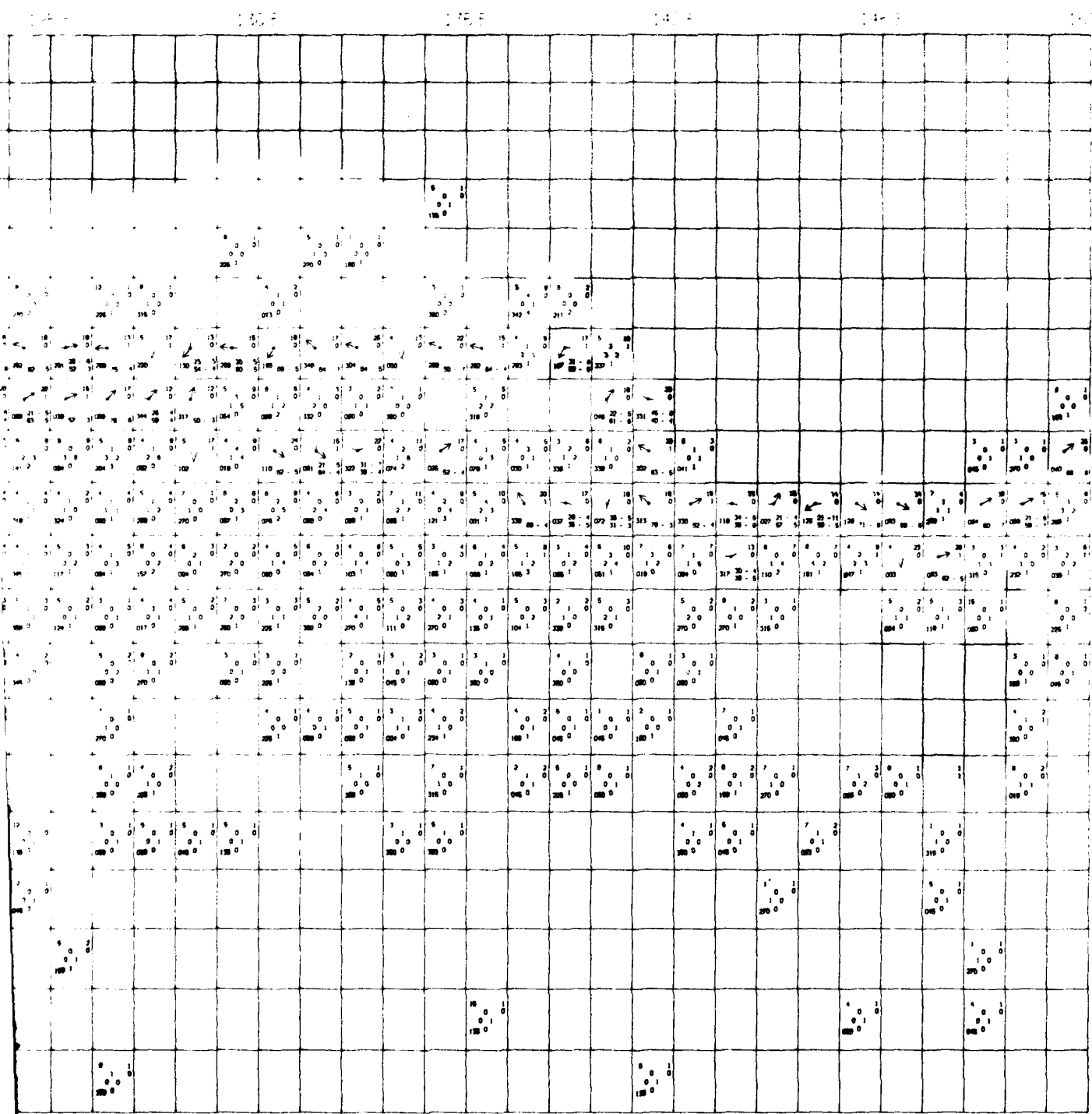
145 E

150 E

WINTER - JUL, AUG, SEP

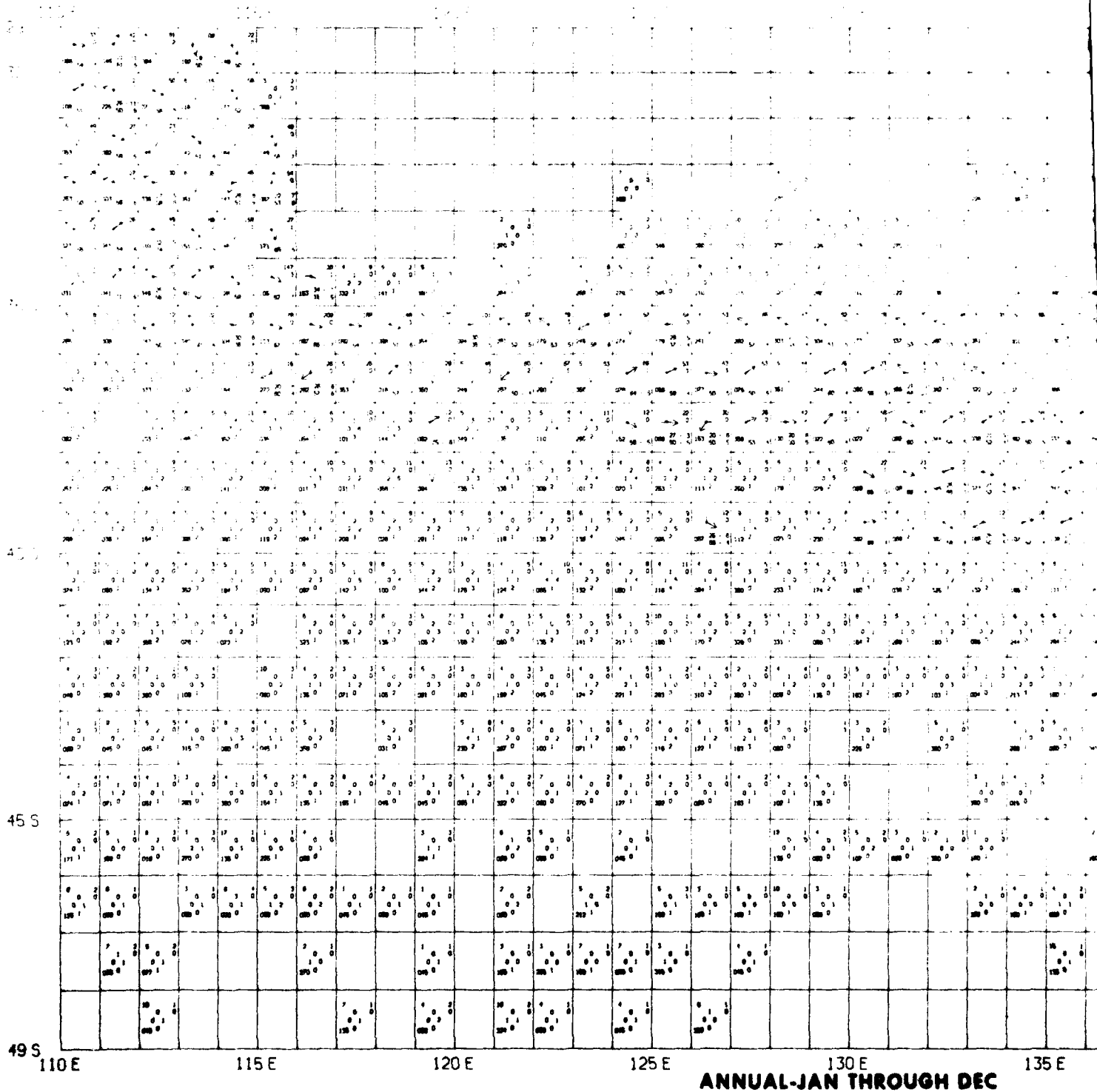


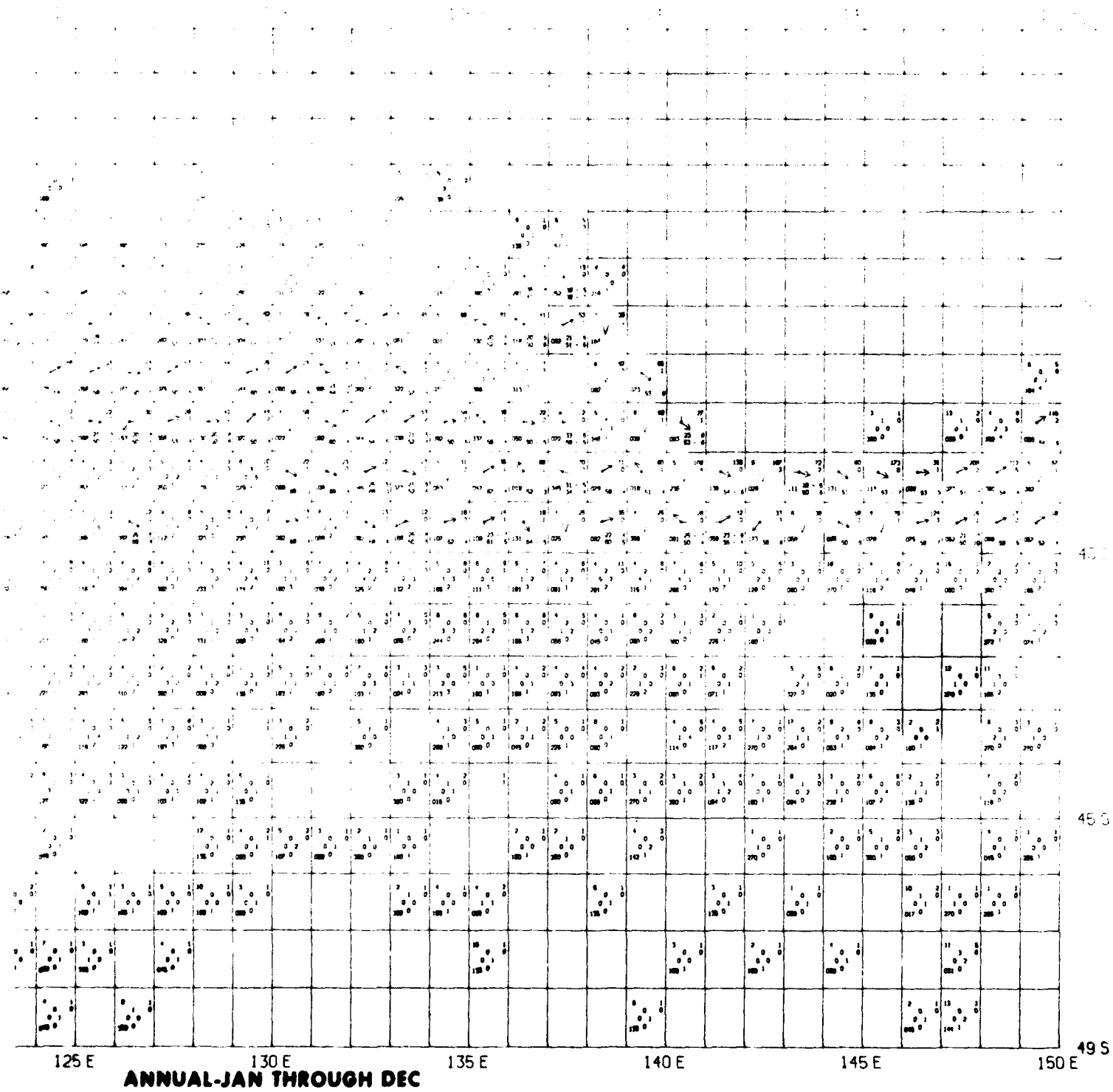
SPRING - OCT, NOV, DEC



125 E 130 E 135 E 140 E 145 E 150 E 45 S 49 S

SPRING - OCT, NOV, DEC





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Surface Currents
Southeast Indian Ocean
Great Australian Bight

This atlas, and the series of which it is a part, is computer generated and automatically plotted. It makes available to user the most recent surface current data collected and will be updated whenever sufficient amounts of data are added to the data file. This and the other atlases are based on a vast quantity of data as compared to the previous manually-compiled editions printed in the mid-thirties.

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The surface current information is based mainly on ship drift, which is the difference between the dead reckoning position and the position determined by any type of navigational fix. This difference describes the direction and speed of the current.

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